

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE/NORTHCOAST PARAMEDIC PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the September 8, 2010 meeting held at Mad River Hospital.

Present:

Doug Boileau, EMT-P	Arcata-Mad River Ambulance
Tim Olsen, EMT	Briceland Fire Department
Joe Gregorio, EMT	CAL-ORE Life Flight
Jaison Chand, EMT-P	City Ambulance of Eureka
Pat Girczyc, FNP, MPH, EdD	College of the Redwoods
Tim Howard, Sr. OA	DHHS--Public Health Branch
Charlene Pellatz, RN	DHHS--Public Health Branch
Pam Coen, Admin Analyst	DHHS--Public Health Branch
Tim Citro, EMT-P	Humboldt Fire District #1
Mark Phelps, MD	Jerold Phelps Hospital
Tom Taylor, MD	Mad River Community Hospital
Ken Stiver, MD	North Coast EMS
Louis Bruhnke, EMT-P	North Coast EMS
Rita Nicklas, RN	Sutter Coast Hospital

2009/10 Program Update

Three students have completed last year's program, and four that are nearing completion. Four have not started their field internship.

2010/11 Program Update

This year's program began on 08/28/10 and has twenty students. Some are commuting to take the program, and some have moved to the area for the program. Only one student has ambulance experience, so students will be required to do ambulance ride along during the didactic and clinical portions of the program in order to get at least forty minimum patient contacts, the ambulance companies have agreed to allow students to ride along in an EMT 1 capacity.

Accreditation

The self-study report for re-accreditation is due 10/01/10.

Pat, Interim Dean of Health Occupations and Public Services at College of the Redwoods, went over the history of how the Paramedic Program became affiliated with the college. With help from the Department of Labor grant, they can now offer the Paramedic Program annually. She discussed the accreditation process for the Paramedic Program.

Paramedic to RN Bridge Program

CR is developing the curriculum for the RN Bridge program and hopefully will have the first class next year. They have recently hired a consultant to help establish the RN Bridge. The consultant developed the program for Napa College, and CR's will be based on that model. Jaison and others who have an interest in the program have given input; Pat asked members to contact Doug if they have any other ideas to share. Per Louis: NCEMS would like to post the status of the RN Bridge program on their website. Pat said she would provide information to them. Per Jaison: City Ambulance employees working toward the RN Bridge, as well as the Paramedic Associates Program, are having problems getting into the pre-requisite courses; does CR plan to expand the pre-requisites? Per Pat: Because of the state economic situation, CR is very limited in the courses they can offer, so they will probably not

expand them in the near future. Another problem is there is a large waiting list for RNs, which will probably impact the RN Bridge.

Pat passed around course evaluation forms for members to critique the Paramedic Program. Pat said two of the strengths of the program are 1. It is local, and 2. Doug's help in promoting the program and his attention to detail. Per Louis: Another strength is the EMTs have 911 experience. Per Tim Citro: The Friday and Saturday schedule adds flexibility. Per Jaison: Will any part of the program be moved online? Per Pat: CR is moving toward that goal. Per Doug: The distance learning component of the Northcoast Paramedic Program that was to be added for the Vermont National Guard fell through due to the changing mission in Iraq.

The committee will continue to receive monthly updates on the status of the paramedic program. The next meeting of the Paramedic Advisory Committee will take place in September 2011.